



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

173/
#6/BM
9-4-02

In Re Application of:

Howle et al.

Serial No.: 09/916,355

Filed: July 27, 2001

Confirmation No.: 7567

For: FIBROUS SHEET ENHANCEMENT

Examiner: Fortuna, Jose A.

Art Unit: 1731

Docket No.: A148 1571

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Non-Fee Amendment
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed July 24, 2002, Applicants provide the following:

It has been determined that the claims in the present application are drawn to two distinct inventions and restriction to one of the inventions has been required. Specifically, claims 1-7 (Group I) are drawn to a polymer binder. Claims 8-25 (Group II) are drawn to a method of forming a fibrous sheet and product produced thereof.

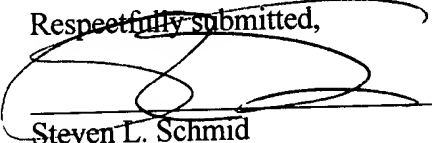
In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group II corresponding to claims 8-25. The election is made without traverse; however, Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the non-elected claims in a subsequently filed divisional application.

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The claims remaining in prosecution, claims 8-25, are believed to define a method of forming a fibrous sheet and product produced thereof. Accordingly, these claims are believed to be in condition for allowance and an early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

8/22/02
Date

~~Respectfully submitted,~~


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Box Non-Fee Amendment, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on:

August 22, 2002

Cheryl West

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